

Arafat to meet Delors on Nov. 9

BRUSSELS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will discuss aid to implement Palestinian self-rule when he meets European Commission President Jacques Delors on Nov. 9, a commission spokesman said Friday. Mr. Arafat, on his first visit to the headquarters of the European Community (EC) since signing a historic peace agreement with Israel last month, will be seeking to speed up EC aid. "Support for the Middle East peace process will be the main item," the spokesman said, adding Mr. Arafat will also meet EC Development Commissioner Manuel Marin. EC leaders called at a summit meeting on Friday for the mobilisation of financial resources to back the Middle East peace process. The summit also called for joint EC action to promote peace in the Middle East under the treaty's common foreign and security policy. The British Foreign Office said meanwhile it had granted a PLO request to upgrade its official status in London, including permission to fly the Palestinian flag. A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain had informed the EC of the change in a note sent two days ago.

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Taba talks shift to settlements Shetrit hints they could be eventually dismantled

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators will ask Israel to roll back Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and remove the "biggest obstacle to peace," a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in an interview published Friday.

"We are demanding concessions from the Israeli government on the question of settlements in Gaza," Nabil Shaath, the head of the Palestinian delegation to talks on the Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, told the Israeli right-wing daily, Maariv.

The Palestinians will either ask Israel to make the settlers live in a single sector, or to grant them fewer "privileges" and less money to help discourage them to stay, he said.

The 5,000 settlers in Gaza were the "biggest obstacle to peace," Dr. Shaath said.

Israeli Economy Minister Shimon Shetrit said in an interview Friday it was possible Israel would dismantle some of

the settlements.

"If there are settlements in areas densely populated with Arabs, I don't think that we can say that in a permanent solution it is our interest to keep them," he said in comments published in the English-language Jerusalem Post.

Israel wanted to hang onto the Jordan River Valley area, and a mountainous section of land near Bethlehem in the West Bank, Mr. Shetrit said.

In all about 120,000 Israelis have settled in the occupied territories.

Settlements in Gaza and the Jericho area which will be granted autonomy over the next few months will remain under Israeli military control. Some settlers have said they would try to move back into Israel, but a main obstacle is disposing of their property.

Several newspapers suggested a new solution was on the horizon Friday, reporting that Saudi businessmen had inquired about purchasing 34 cottages under construction in the Karnei Shomron settle-

ment near Nablus. Settlement officials did not answer their office telephones for comment.

The 18 settlements in the Gaza Strip are located throughout the region, but grouped into about three main clusters, and Israel has insisted it will keep troops in the strip to guard its settlers.

The Haaretz newspaper reported Friday that Israel will present its detailed plan for a military retreat from the Gaza Strip and Jericho to Dr. Shaath's delegation on Monday in negotiations in Taba, Egypt.

Citing Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Taba, it said the army was to withdraw from refugee camps and areas with dense Palestinian populations first.

The withdrawal from Jericho would take place later.

To avoid a "power vacuum" in these areas, Israel was hoping to come to an agreement in Taba on the modalities of deploying a Palestinian police force.

Settler abducted

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Masked Palestinians stabbed and abducted a Jewish settler in the occupied West Bank Friday, also forcing an Arab man into the car as they fled, Jewish settlers and Palestinian sources said.

The army denied initial radio reports saying the body was found in the escape vehicle near Beitin village, northeast of Ramallah.

The Jewish kidnap victim was Haim Mizrachi from the settlement of Beit El. Residents said he was a seminary student in his 30s, but no other details were immediately available.

The army confirmed the kidnapping and said it launched wide searches in the Ramallah area, about 15 kilometers north of Jerusalem. Two helicopters hovered overhead and the region was declared a closed military area.

Palestinian negotiator Ziad Abu Ziad condemned the attack on army radio and said he hoped such violence would halt.

"I am very sorry that there are those who are trying in every way to make the peace talks fail... and I hope that these people will understand and realise that all efforts of this type will not stop the process," Mr. Abu Ziad said.

The army denied an earlier report from military officials that the settler had been found dead in a car at the entrance to the village of Beitin, a few kilometers from where the abduction took place.

A large pool of blood and Jewish skull-cap marked the spot where the settler was forced into a car just hours earlier and driven off by masked Palestinians in Al Birash village, near Beit El.

The settler was seized at a shop where he had gone to buy eggs after receiving a phone call from a Palestinian merchant, settler spokesman Shai Bazak said. Israeli Radio said he was apparently set up.

As soon as he entered the shop, three masked Palestinian men jumped on the settler and stabbed him before bundling him into the boot of a car, said Bazak, who lives in Beit El.

No details were immediately released on the name of the settler.

Journalists were barred from the Ramallah region, where the abduction took place and where angry settlers later set fire to a Palestinian car to cries of "Rabin's a traitor."

The leader of settlements in Ramallah, Pinhas Wallerstein, charged that the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin viewed settlers as "second-class citizens who can be attacked with impunity."

The number of anti-Israeli attacks has not fallen since Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an accord on Palestinian autonomy in Washington on Sept. 13, he argued.

But Mr. Rabin said last week the number of attacks had halved since the signing.

(Continued on page 10)



Israeli soldiers watch a Palestinian car burning which was set on fire by Jewish settlers on the road leading to the Beth El settlement Friday. Settlers also burned down an Arab house and clashed with Israeli troops, in protest against the stabbing and kidnapping of an Israeli by masked Palestinians (AFP photo)

Court's reversal of ban on public rallies seen as victory for campaign, democracy

By Naseem Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

issuing an across-the-board interdiction of public rallying in elections.

AMMAN — Thursday's Higher Council of Justice's reversal of a Ministry of Interior ban on public rallies by candidates has given a new impetus to a hitherto lackluster elections campaign, by first underlining the judicial authority's independent role in judging validity of government decisions and, second, by lifting a major restriction on means of democratic expression in the country, according to analysts and observers.

The court, the highest legal body in the country, revoked the controversial ban saying that the minister of interior's authority does not extend to

order."

He added that although his ministry had not issued a "general ban" on public rallying, his ministry "will look into every request for such a function separately and will issue the proper decisions and adopt the correct measures to hold the rallies in a manner which will protect the citizens' safety and public order."

Legislatively satisfied that the court had institutionalized a legal precedent to guide the executive authority over similar issues, analysts stressed what they saw as the political message of the court's decision.

"The court's decision is extremely democratic, timely and important," a well-

placed analyst told the Jordan Times. The analyst, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the court's ruling will give the citizen the feeling that the system can work for him or her and that they are not necessarily under the hegemony of the executive branch."

Coupled with a feeling that the judicial authority can and will stand by the side of political parties against the government, most analysts believe, the lifting of the ban will help allay the fears of political parties who have felt targeted by the government in the run up to the Nov. 8 deadline.

"The timing of this case (Continued on page 10)

Islamists stage first election rally in Shmeisani

By Marwan M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

said former Lower House of Parliament Deputy Yousef Al Athem as he introduced his party's candidate, Ibrahim Zeid Al Keilani, at the front's first rally of the 1993 election campaign.

In a neatly-placed bedouin tent, with about three quarters of the white plastic chairs full, most of them with worshippers from the Prince Hassan Mosque in Shmeisani, the IAF activists underlined the election slogans of their party.

The law forbids political parties or campaigning from the mosque pulpit. The Friday preacher at the Prince Hassan Mosque announced from the pulpit that the rally would take place as soon as prayers ended.

But like the campaign rally speech of Mr. Keilani, the Friday sermons at the Mosque concentrated on foreign relations rather than on internal affairs. Oppression of Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan and Lebanon was condemned, but there was no mention of issues closer to home.

In his introductory speech, at the rally, Mr. Athem stressed national unity and condemned the one-person, one-vote system as sectarian and unfair. He accused some political parties of stressing sectarian issues and dividing the electorate on tribal lines.

"Our aim is to unite people, not to divide them, to create cohesion and not fragmentation" (Continued on page 10)

and to stress that we are indeed one people — two sides of the same coin," said Mr. Athem, an excellent orator. Speaking in a part of the Third District that is heavily populated by middle and upper class Jordanians of Palestinian origin, Mr. Athem and Mr. Keilani stressed the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

"All Jordanians are Jordanians, with equal rights and equal participation regardless of their origins," said Mr. Keilani.

Focusing away from domestic issues for the rest of his speech, Mr. Keilani attacked certain teams filming the rally calling them "the (Continued on page 10)

Battle of the left — seats will be lost due to personality clashes and inter-party politics

By Marwan M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Personality conflicts and inter-party power politics are dominating the election list and campaign of two prominent left-wing political parties and may cause the defeat of most of their candidates, leftist observers and commentators say.

Who were once known as the champions of issue politics have become the champions of personality cults, vying for seats that may more easily be won by other fellow leftists, they say.

The scaling down of the number of leftist candidates

running in at least six electoral districts has hurt left-wing chances at the polls, members of the concerned parties, the Democratic Journal People's Party (DJPP) and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Party (JDPP) believe.

"The problem is not the withdrawal itself, but the reasons for the withdrawal and the popularity of the alternative candidates being fielded," said one JDPP member.

The JDPP and DJPP announced last week that they were each dropping three of their candidates in order to field a joint list that

had a greater chance of winning votes at the polls. Known as the Progressive List, the joint list is fielding six candidates in five districts.

But the new list, leftist activists say, is "weak." Critics of the decision claim that personality politics dominated the reshuffle. Criticism has been aimed primarily at the DJPP head, Azmi Khawaja, who is running on the Progressive List in Amman's First District.

"Two older, more senior members of both parties wanted to run and thus scrambled the existing list. They ignored who had more popularity where and who had a better chance of winning. They concentrated on their own individual campaigns," says one observer from the fellow leftist Communist Party.

"In almost every district the stronger candidate was asked to withdraw on behalf of a less popular candidate so that the equation between the two parties would remain in balance," commented an independent observer.

The decision to create a Progressive List was originally seen as one reformative way of dealing with the new election law and the restrictions placed on the campaign.

Political observers say. They predict a decrease in the number of seats held by pan-Arabs and leftists in the next Parliament.

With leftist and pan-Arab parties feeling the "squeeze" created by the one-person, one-vote formula, leftist and pan-Arabist seats in Parliament may drop, political commentators predict.

"I don't think the left will get more than five to seven seats, down from the 12 in the last Parliament," said a DJPP supporter.

The merger list was a (Continued on page 10)

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Shelling duels in S. Lebanon

MARIJOUN (AP) —

Guerillas battled Israeli and allied militia gunners Friday in the heaviest artillery duels in South Lebanon since the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord was signed last month.

No details were immediately released on the name of the settler.

Journalists were barred from the Ramallah region, where the abduction took place and where angry settlers later set fire to a Palestinian car to cries of "Rabin's a traitor."

The leader of settlements in Ramallah, Pinhas Wallerstein, charged that the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin viewed settlers as "second-class citizens who can be attacked with impunity."

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(Continued on page 10)

Mogadishu clashes flare; Aideed pursues new tone

MOGADISHU (Agencies) —

Factional fighting erupted in the war-ravaged Somali capital Friday, shattering a two-day calm in the wake of fierce clashes which left 17 people dead earlier this week.

Foreign journalists at the Safah Hotel heard persistent rattles of small arms fire around the K4 roundabout area of southern Mogadishu, the scene of intense fighting on Monday and Tuesday. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Somali sources said the fighting pitted young militia loyal to warlord Mohamad Farah Aideed and those of his enemy, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

An artillery war between General Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi killed or wounded 30,000 people in Mogadishu before the warlords agreed to an uneasy U.N.-brokered ceasefire in March last year.

The duel began after an SLA patrol discovered and harmlessly defused a roadside bomb planted near the Israeli-manned Sojod outpost in the zone's central sector at 9 a.m.

Security forces fired tear-gas Friday to stop hundreds of Muslims trying to march towards the mosque.

But there was no repeat of the violence that occurred last Friday when paramilitary police fired on demonstrators and killed about 50 people.

For the second Friday, Islamic religious and political leaders called for a mass protest of the army siege of the militants inside the Hazratib Mosque.

Unlike a week earlier when thousands of people responded to a similar call, only a few hundred residents braved the streets where reinforcements of federal police were on alert.

Demonstrators came out in Srinagar, and the towns of Sopore and Baramulla. They were beaten back by troops using tear-gas and truncheons.

Police say about 60 militants and scores of civilians are inside the mosque, where Muslims believe a hair of the Prophet Mohammad is enshrined in a sealed room.

Earlier, the government had demanded the unconditional surrender of all the militants. But government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say negotiations were now focused on whether non-Kashmiri militants could go free.

Qadhafi says reports of rebellion are 'blatant lie'

Cairo (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has described reports of a military uprising against him as "a blatant lie."

In a speech to university faculty and students, carried on Libyan television Thursday, Colonel Qadhafi denied Western press reports that he had called out the air force to put down a rebellion at an army base near Misratah, east of the Libyan capital Tripoli.

"We have in front of us a blatant lie," Col. Qadhafi said. "We are the witnesses and we know that nothing has happened, whether in Misratah or anywhere else, that no plane moved and that there was no rebellion."

The broadcast was monitored by the BBC in London.

His remarks came a day after a Libyan opposition group in exile charged that Col. Qadhafi's government has executed dozens of Libyans and arrested hundreds to counter a military rebellion aimed at bringing the colonel down after 24 years in power.

The military is believed to be the only force capable of dislodging him.

Mohammad Gibril, a spokesman for the opposition Libyan National Front, told the Associated Press on Thursday that clashes were continuing at a base near Bani Walid, but he did not have figures on casualties. Bani Walid also is in eastern Libya.

Western diplomats in the Libyan capital and opposition leaders abroad reported last week that the air force moved Oct. 17-18 against rebels in Misratah and Bani Walid.

Opposition leaders have said other camps were involved, including Al Zawayia, 50 kilometres west of Tripoli, and Tarhunah, about 50 kilometres south of the capital.

There have been some reports that the unrest was not political but stemmed from the regime's failure to pay its military troops for several months. There is also believed to be discontent in the ranks over shortages caused by U.N. sanctions in force since the spring of 1992.

Thursday's Washington Post newspaper said a mutiny against Col. Qadhafi earlier this month had begun spontaneously as a protest over pay, but escalated into a stand-off between troops loyal to the Libyan leader and some 650 mutineers.

It said Col. Qadhafi had sent in the air force to bomb the rebels.

The BBC said it had also reported that the Libyan air force put down a coup attempt in Misratah.

The Washington Post's re-

port from Cairo, which quoted diplomats and exiled Libyan opposition sources, said troops in the Zawiya barracks mutinied on Oct. 7 to protest not having been paid for several months.

It said there were minor revolts in the barracks of Misratah and Beni Walid and that all three were met by air strikes.

Experts have said it is Col. Qadhafi's worst problem with the military since a 1986 rebellion against his rule.

The Libyan government has denied that any unrest occurred, and none has been reported on the government-controlled media.

In his speech, Col. Qadhafi also insisted that his government, which includes citizen committees at all levels, would persist.

"If Muammar Qadhafi died and a thousand Muammar Qadhafis die, the people's congresses will go on and the people's committees will go on and nobody can change this system," he was quoted as saying.

He accused the BBC, the London-headquartered British Broadcasting Corporation which has carried reports of the rebellion, and the British intelligence service of fabricating the stories to demoralise the Libyan people.

"They said: Just wait, we will concoct something for you. First, say there is a coup ... so that Libya becomes like Azerbaijan, like Burundi."

Col. Qadhafi insisted Libya has no army, just "a people in arms" and added: "The people have the authority and the weapons, and the people cannot overthrow themselves."

Libya has been locked in a debate with Britain, the United States and France over allegations that two Libyan men were behind the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am passenger jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people in the Boeing 747 were killed along with 11 on the ground.

France is seeking four Libyans for questioning in the 1988 bombing of a French UTA passenger jet over Niger in which 171 people died.

The U.N. Security Council imposed arms, diplomatic and air sanctions against Libya in April 1992 for refusing to turn the Lockerbie suspects over for trial.

They have threatened to seek harsher sanctions for force Libya to comply.

In his speech Thursday, Col. Qadhafi also called for thieves to have their hands chopped off.

"Theft, whether it be in the (public) treasury, in the factory or on the street, should be

punished by the amputation of a hand, in keeping with the Koran," he said.

"Murderers should be killed ... and beatings should be carried out when warranted," said the leader of Libya, which calls itself a socialist republic where the Koran is the social code.

A report said Friday Libyan opposition groups met this month to form a united front against Libyan leader Col. Qadhafi just as the time when diplomats reported the revolt.

Al Hayat newspaper, printed in Cairo, said the heads of three groups met in Algeria on Oct. 14 and 15 and discussed a common platform which would insist on full pluralist democracy and blast Libya's current rulers for economic collapse.

The paper did not make any link between the revolt and the opposition meeting.

An exiled Libyan politician contacted by Reuters confirmed the meeting had taken place but said he had no details of it.

Political analysts say Col. Qadhafi, in power since 1969, faces mounting unrest at home because of the threat of tougher U.N. sanctions.

Defence Secretary Les Aspin, who met privately with

Gen. Aideed's guerrillas

shot down two U.S. helicopters

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Mr. Aspin showed inexcusably poor judgment in his handling of the events in Somalia," wrote Bill Archer and Sam Johnson, both of

the House Appropriations Sub-Committee, returned from Somalia last week.

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A Pentagon official said Mr. Aspin had not seen the letter and was not told of its contents before it was sent to Mr. Clinton.

U.S. general accepts blame for failed mission in Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The army general who led the effort to capture Somalian clan leader Mohammad Farrah Aideed told President Bill Clinton he accepts responsibility for the failed mission and the deaths of 18 Americans in a battle in downtown Mogadishu, congressional and Pentagon officials say.

General William Garrison sent a handwritten letter to Mr. Clinton through Representative John Murtha, who recently visited Somalia, the officials said Wednesday night, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In addition to accepting responsibility for the failed mission, Mr. Garrison told Mr. Clinton that the deployment of armoured vehicles to his Ranger unit in Somalia would not have changed the outcome of the Oct. 3 mission against Gen. Aideed's forces, the officials said.

Gen. Aideed's guerrillas shot down two U.S. helicopters in the street battle that killed the 18 Americans, along with more than 300 Somalis and a Malaysian soldier.

At a Capitol Hill news conference, Mr. Archer said Mr. Garrison's letter "smacks of one of the worst cover-ups this nation has seen" and complained that he was the "designated fall guy."

On Oct. 3, the Americans had to ask Malaysians in the 33-nation U.N. force for armoured personnel carriers and Pakistani troops for tanks to help rescue U.S. troops that had been pinned down by Somalian gunfire for hours.

Mr. Montgomery said in an Oct. 19 interview that having U.S. armour "would have made a difference."

"It would have been an easier operation. We would have been able to punch into the city more quickly ... (and) basically not be affected by RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades)."

The two lawmakers said they had more than 30 other House members who had signed the letter, but they declined to say who they were.

Days following the Oct. 3 mission, a handful of senators and congressmen called for Mr. Aspin's resignation, but the calls subsided until Thursday's demands.

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Home News

German minister concludes visit after meetings with top officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — German Federal Minister of Education and Science Rainer Ortleb Friday concluded a three-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

Professor Ortleb Thursday met with Jordanian officials including Prime Minister Abdulla Salam Al Majali.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the prime minister and Professor Ortleb expressed "deep satisfaction with the strong relations between Germany and Jordan and stressed the two countries' determination to expand the scope of mutual cooperation in

cultural and educational fields. Petra said that Dr. Majali reviewed with the German minister the latest developments in the Middle East peace process at a meeting attended by Khaled Zoubi, Acting Minister of Education and Higher Education.

Professor Zoubi had earlier met Professor Ortleb and accompanied him on a visit to the German-financed Veterinary Vaccines Centre where they were briefed by Mukhlis Ammarin on the centre's development and production.

Professor Ortleb met with

Najib Rashdan, chairman of the constituent assembly of the Centre of Studies on Freedom and Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World, and discussed the centre's projected plans.

Also Thursday, Professor Ortleb met with Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawzi who voiced Jordan's appreciation of Germany's continued economic and technical assistance to Jordan.

Professor Ortleb toured Petra and Aqaba Friday morning before his departure for Germany.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Turkish President Suleiman Demirel, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Turkey's national day. King Hussein wished the Turkish President continued good health and happiness and the Turkish people further progress and prosperity.

Crisis management seminar to begin Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day pan-Arab seminar on crisis management, organised by the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development (AOAD), will be held here Monday day, according to AOAD Director General Ahmad Saqr Ashour. Participants will discuss the definition of crisis, its dimensions and methods of classifying crises.



Musical artists from the six local bands scheduled to perform tonight (Saturday) at the

Tuning up for tonight's pop music festival

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Los Morenos, the Dead Sea Fishing Club, Faculty X, Black Onyx and the Floyds will rock the Palace of Culture tonight (Saturday) with an impressive sound and hit songs by Phil Floyd, Dire Straits, Phil Collins, Santana, U2, Eric Clapton, the Gipsy Kings and Bruce Springsteen, among others.

The organisers, the National Music Conservatory — Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the concert's coordinator, Jesse Juma, are presenting the event rather as a pop festival, with the participation of several local bands — Jordanian and other Arab nationals living in Jordan.

The Jordan Times spoke to the musicians during their rehearsals on Friday. All of them

are thrilled at the idea of sharing the music they love with the audience.

Most of them spoke against computerised, sequenced music saying that live performance, even with its technical flaws, is preferable to perfectly recorded but lifeless music.

Los Morenos have an obvious weakness for the Latin flavour and will play songs by the Gipsy Kings.

The Floyds are more oriented towards instrumentals and will present rock and jazz numbers, as well as some of their own compositions.

Faculty X will also play their own works along with pieces by Chick Corea.

The Dead Sea Fishing Club, a Jordanian group with a good sense of humour, has already recorded some songs that were broadcast on Radio Jordan FM station. They will play rock

and rhythm and blues music. Black Onyx likes to play standards like Eric Clapton's "You Are Wonderful Tonight."

As appealing as the programme sounds, one still wishes that local bands were able to find their own musical identity and "perform" more original music.

In spite of previous honourable attempts by Jordanian groups and artists like Mirage, Hot Ice or Oasen Saboumhi, no specific, clearly characterised local style has emerged.

Tonight's event however is a landmark that will hopefully be followed by many other similar ones.

With Radio Jordan's beloved DJs Muhammad al-Jazreh and Ramia Kassiech as hosts, the pop festival promises to delight music lovers from all age groups.



Jawad Al Anani

Peace requires specific steps for progress

— Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani said that the peace process has presented the Arabs with a new challenge of deciding on their options, and one which requires them to take specific steps towards ensuring progress, because if they fail to plan for themselves, others will shape the Arab future, and at Arab expense.

In an open debate on alternatives to peace organised by the Association of Arab University graduates in Amman Thursday, Dr. Anani said that so far the Arabs have been talking about peace, expressing their aspirations and hopes, but without any idea of translating peace into practical and clear steps or administrative programmes, said the minister.

The peace process, he said, has now opened the way for the Arabs to discuss the future and to contemplate its benefits, said Dr. Anani.

The Arabs are faced with the question of how to be part of the Middle East as a whole, in order to lay the foundation of a new Arab order that would ensure a better future, he said.

They are faced with answering whether they are willing to reach a formula within the new world order whereby they can have their say, or remain isolated and thus escape present and future challenges, Dr. Anani said.

Dr. Anani called on every Arab country to realise that the policy of isolation threatens regimes rather than protect them.

He also urged the Jordanian private sector to conduct studies and formulate its own concept of future economic cooperation between Jordan and the countries of the Middle East.

The project also involves introducing measures to protect the banks of the river, includ-

Jordan studies proposals on monetary, trade involvement with occupied lands

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is studying a set of proposals leading to agreements related to the modalities of Jordanian involvement in the monetary affairs of and trade with the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, informed sources said Friday.

The proposals, tabled during a meeting of a Jordanian-Palestinian committee on economic cooperation last week, are expected to be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval and amendment if necessary before they are formulated as what would be the first official agreements on economic and monetary ties between the two banks of the Jordan River following the historic Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed on Sept. 13.

The agreements are expected to cover the mechanism for Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) control of monetary and banking affairs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the five-year Palestinian autonomy envisaged under the Sept. 13 accord, said the sources, who preferred anonymity.

According to the sources, the Palestinians, who lack any monetary authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, are seeking CBJ supervision of commercial banks — as and when they reopen — and the con-

tinued use of the Jordanian dinar in the occupied territories.

They cite an annex in the Israel-PLO accord referring to Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation as the best indication yet that, despite comments from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and others, the Jewish state wants to retain the occupied territories as a monopoly market. Israel now sells about \$1.5 billion worth of goods to the Palestinians.

Under a broad framework on Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation worked out last month, the Palestinians will set up a token monetary authority for the occupied territories to work closely in coordination with the CBJ through a representative status in the CBJ's board of directors.

As far back as mid-last year, Israel sought to impose customs barriers and a ceiling on Jordanian exports to the occupied territories as part of any peace agreement.

The proposal was immediately rejected by Jordan as well as the Palestinians, and it is not known yet whether Israel is dusting that idea or similar "protectionist" measures to be presented at an expected meeting soon of PLO and Israeli officials on economic cooperation.

Jordan and Israel are negotiating an agreement on reopening of commercial banks in the occupied territories, several banks which used to operate in the West Bank until Israel seized the territory in 1967 are poised to resume their operations as soon as the CBJ gives the green light.

Officials have said that those banks which had pre-1967 branches will give priority in permissions for operations. Approval for applications from others will follow later they say.

Similarly, the Palestinians are also seeking Jordanian permission for branches in the Kingdom for Palestinian banks expected to spring up in the occupied territories.

Palestinian economic planners from the occupied territories have said that economic

independence from Israel was one of their priority objectives.

They say that the best option for the Palestinians at this point in time is to interact with Jordan while keeping options for long-term objectives such as a Palestinian currency and independent monetary authorities until such time the final status of the territories are negotiated with Israelis in the third year of self-rule.

The Amman meetings were seen as a follow-up to a broad framework for West Bank-East Bank economic cooperation worked out last month when Ahmad Ouriou, head of Samed, the PLO's investment arm, was in town.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani headed the Jordanian team to last week's talks, while Mohammad Zubbi Nashashibi, head of the PLO's Economic Planning Department, led the Palestinian side.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi and Mohammad Saqqaf, advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, were the other members in the Jordanian team, while Jawad Naji, a senior aide to Mr. Nashashibi, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Al Abdul Rahim and his deputy Omar Khatib were on the Palestinian delegation.

Finance Minister Sami Gammon said the government was satisfied that the groundwork has been laid for Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation after the uncertainties raised in the immediate wake of the Israel-PLO accord.

"What we are discussing now are definite agreements," Mr. Gammon told the Jordan Times. He declined to elaborate, saying formal announcements would be made later.

BASSIRA

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bassira members & guests please note: This afternoon's meeting will feature candidate

Toujan Faisal

as guest speaker. The location of the meeting will be:

**The Regency Palace Hotel
(Petra Ballroom)**

at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting will be conducted in English

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Bani Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Abdoun) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafzah and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Jarash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Issam at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).

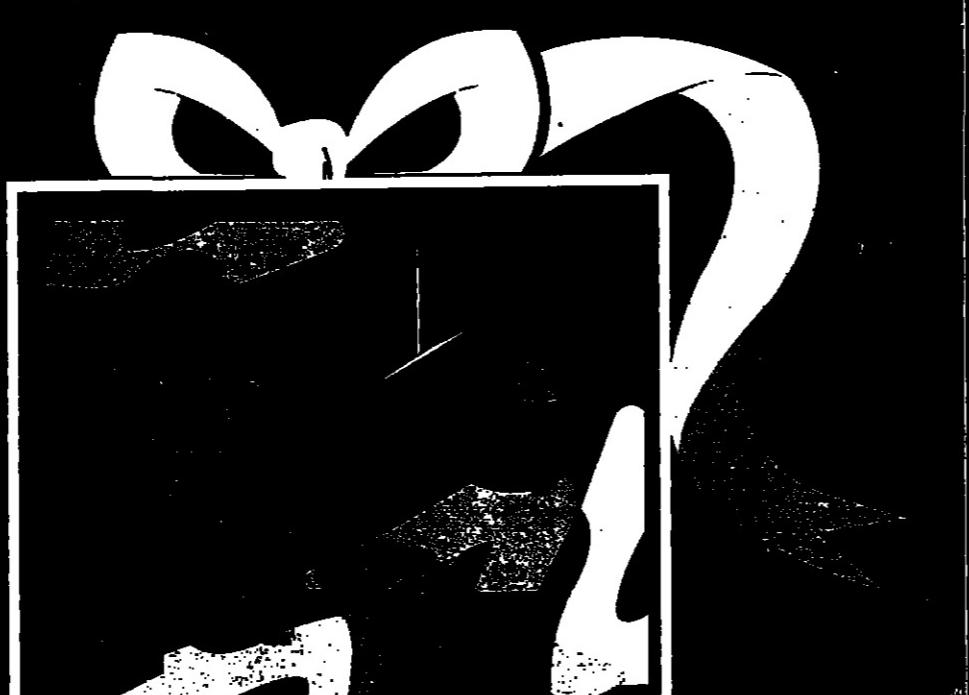
★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhallad Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Casa-Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).

★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmood Taha and Salman Abbas at Abd Al and Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of etchings by Muhammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lewabdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

LECTURES

Lecture by Lutfi Wakid, chief of the board of directors of the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram, entitled "Development of the Egyptian People's Awareness of the Arab Identity" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.



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GoldStar Company Ltd. of South Korea, in cooperation with the Middle East Engineering and Electronics Industries Co. Ltd. (GoldStar Jordan), held the company's regional strategic conference for Middle East branches in Amman between Oct. 25 and 28, 1993, in order to lay down a joint strategy for GoldStar and chart the company's plans for 1994.

The conference was attended by a large number of officials from GoldStar branch offices and factories in the Middle East, Africa and Korea.

The conference sought to stimulate GoldStar Jordan and promote its role as a regional centre acting for the mother company in Korea. It also studied a number of expansion projects aimed at ensuring further investments in Jordan and expanding the industrial base for GoldStar Jordan.

At the end of the meeting, Darwish Khalili and Sons Company (GoldStar Jordan) addressed a press conference at the Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday in order to acquaint the public with the latest progress achieved by Jordanian talent and skill in electrical and electronical industries and to display Jordan's capability to acquire and absorb advanced world experience.

K.S. Shin, executive director for Middle East and Africa operations of GoldStar Company, addressed the media expressing his delight at the occasion, noting that he had addressed the press in Amman last April in the presence of GoldStar board Chairman YONG IK ROW who was here to celebrate the first anniversary of GoldStar in Jordan and mark the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

"On his occasion, we will plan our work for our third year in Jordan, in cooperation with two other companies, with the purpose of promoting the electrical and electronic industry in Jordan," said Mr. Shin.

"We have decided that one of the subjects to be tackled at the regional conference should be a qualitative leap for GoldStar in Jordan," he added.

He said: "GoldStar Jor-

GoldStar, the man, the dream and the commitment.

"When you have a dream, you have to go after it with all your heart and strength. Even if it takes you to the stars."

In 1958, In-Hwoi Koo founded an electronics company. He called his new company GoldStar. "Gold" because he wanted the foundation of his company to be built on only the finest ingredients, the best minds and hands creating products of the highest quality. "Star" because he wanted to reach for the stars in his goals for his new company.

Knowing he had to start at the bottom and work his way up, he chose radios. His new electronics company could make the necessary circuits and tubes, and his plastic factory, Lucky Plastics, could make the cases. His plan worked and the rest is history in the real sense of the word. It's history because every major consumer electronic product in Korea was first produced by GoldStar. And by looking at GoldStar's accomplishments, you can follow Korea's development.

These first also clearly show GoldStar's dominance in the electronics field in Korea. A dominance that is gaining worldwide recognition.

Strategy for 1994

Mr. Shin said: "Jordan GoldStar has four practical objectives that are being sought within our 1994 projects:

1 — A plan for local industrialisation and technological advance.

2 — Producing advanced types of refrigerators, among an assortment of other products.

3 — Studying the prospect of opening a research and development centre aimed at attaining high efficiency and excellent management.

4 — Catering to the requirements of the new markets and the consumers needs.

"For these reasons, we plan to create a new power for GoldStar Jordan so that its products would cater to the requirements of the daily life. The idea is based on the assumption that renovating the value of the GoldStar industry should not be done by focusing on sales but rather by providing the public with highly valuable products so that Jordanian citizens get accustomed with our products and our services."

"I believe that we will be the company number one in electronics, backed by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and together with the Jordanian government and people."

"I hope that you, people of the press, will give constant backing to the GoldStar Jordan for a better and more prosperous future."

Address by Mustafa Darwish Khalili, board chairman of the Middle East Engineering and Electronics Industries Co. Ltd.

"In light of the economic and political stability in Jordan, the board chairman of GoldStar Korea who visited Jordan twice so far and received from King Hussein the Jordanian Medal of Independence of the First Order, decided to hold the company's Middle East regional strategic conference in Amman between Oct. 25 and 28, 1993."

"The conference gave the go-ahead to the company to carry out GoldStar's plans which call for exporting GoldStar Jordan products to a number of markets abroad."

"The decision was taken also for the commencement of an intensive programme of training courses, to be held in Korea, benefitting all the technical and managerial staff employed by

GoldStar Jordan and acquainting them with the mother company's equipment and technology for the year 2000.

"The Middle East GoldStar plants have already started marketing a new product, gas-operated heaters, of three models. The company has also started marketing its new product Acma anti-frost refrigerator of high quality specifications.

"The company has concluded deals for exporting numerous products to France, the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, Tunisia, and Lebanon. The company will start establishing a new centre for research and development in electronics with the assistance of the mother company in Korea. This will be the first centre of its kind in the Middle East."

"For these reasons, we

choson Darwish Khalili and Sons Company to represent us in Jordan because we found that their company has great ambitions for serious work and for developing the electronic industry in Jordan, and also because the Jordanian people are well-educated and diligent and seek to attain further advances," said Mr. Shin.

The Jordanian people, he said, "proved to be able to cope with and absorb modern world technology and for this reason we have achieved rapid, unprecedented progress, thanks to the genuine cooperation between Darwish Khalili Company and GoldStar Company, based on brotherly ties and backed by the Jordanian government which is helping the advancement of industry and investments," he said.



Answering the press

Mr. Shin, Mr. Khalili and Mohammad Darwish Khalili, vice chairman of the board of GoldStar Jordan, answered a number of questions addressed by journalists.

In reply to a question to Mr. Shin, on the reasons behind choosing Jordan as the site for a GoldStar regional centre for the Middle East, he said that Jordan, despite its small population, has an important, strategic location in the Middle East.

"The Kingdom has a central geographical location and enjoys economic security and stability, thanks to King Hussein's wise leadership."

"GoldStar company has

advanced industrial nations. This of course requires support and encouragement from the government, as was the case in industrial countries like Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

"Expansion of the electronic industry should be vertical and not horizontal, and this can not happen without backing and direction from the state," said Mr. Shin.

Comparing the Korean industry to those of Europe, the United States and Japan, Mr. Shin said: "These nations are ahead of us in industry, and yet Korean industrial products have invaded European markets for years and we have overcome the difficulties of competing with the foreign products."

Cutting down unemployment

Mr. Mustafa Darwish Al Khalili, board chairman of GoldStar Jordan, outlined to the press his company's role in reducing the rate of unemployment in the country by pointing out that GoldStar Jordan employs 500 workers, engineers, officials and technicians.

"GoldStar has the capability of operating automatic production lines that would reduce the number of workforce, yet we set up production lines that would absorb the greatest number of workers so as to contribute to stemming the unemployment in the country," he said.

Mr. Khalili said that GoldStar Jordan has been cooperating with the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped and creating jobs for handicapped people, enabling them to make a decent living.

On the role of GoldStar in developing Jordanian industry, Mr. Khalili said: "We have regular programmes which entail dispatching Jordanian technicians and management officials on advanced training courses in Korea where they can inspect advanced production methods and factory management.

"I can see that the Jordanian manpower is trained, ambitious and highly educated, and all this helps the country's future development of its industry into a fully-integrated national industry, catering to the world standards and competing with the industries of the

Korea in maintaining and ensuring the company's high quality products.

"To do this, we send samples of our products to Korea periodically, for inspection, and we arrange for regular visits by Korean experts to inspect our progress in Jordan."

History of GoldStar Jordan

Mr. Mohammad Darwish Khalili, vice chairman of the GoldStar Company Jordan, referring to the early days of the company and its earlier production, said that the company first assembled refrigerators of different sizes responding to various world specifications.

"During King Hussein's visit to GoldStar Company's wing at the Jordanian Industrial fair, we promised the King to set up a television plant to serve the Jordanian people's needs and to reduce the prices and to create jobs," he said.

"Later we started producing video sets and following the King's second visit, and in keeping with the GoldStar board chairman's promise, we started developing refrigerators and we produced no-frost multi-flow for air distribution and infra-red system, a system which operates safely preserving foodstuff in good condition, in the refrigerator," said Mr. Khalili.

"Later, we began producing washing machines, which are now filling the Jordanian markets and are successful due to their high quality," he said, adding that in the coming month, "we will embark on a second phase of television production which entails producing a new system with Arabic language programme."

With a view to offering

Why is GoldStar the right choice?

So what makes GoldStar the right choice for your electronic needs? We feel that it has to do with our trademark. "Technology with the human touch." We are doing our utmost to develop new technologies and new products that will improve your life and better society. But we don't stop there. We give that technology a human touch. By that we mean it is aesthetically attractive and it is easy to use. We want to help you get more out of life. That is why GoldStar is so popular, and why we've not only survived the last 35 years, but excelled. It is hard to believe, how far we have come. It certainly is rags to riches story-from the humble beginnings of making simple radios to making almost every electronic product under the sun. Just imagine what we'll be doing tomorrow!

GoldStar Company Ltd. holds regional strategic conference in Amman

Jordan's economic, political stability and strategic position make it ideal regional centre

Manufacturing the first Jordanian car is our next target



Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1993

NAFTA: Salinas warns of trading wars

WASHINGTON (R) — Three weeks before Congress votes on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Clinton administration said Thursday it was locked in combat with lawmakers while Mexico warned that the alternative open markets might be trade wars.

As tensions mount ahead of a too-close-to-call House vote, players in the free-trade debate are stepping up the rhetoric, with both critics and proponents claiming the tide is turning their way and outlining dire consequences should their agenda fail.

Mexican President Carlos

Salinas de Gortari said in an interview Friday that U.S. opponents of NAFTA should realize what the alternative was.

"In the world of today, you must enter globalisation... closing markets means the prelude to trading wars and once the cold war is over, the worst outcome would be to have trading wars, which is the prelude to nastier wars," he said.

In a hard-hitting television interview, Mr. Salinas said the free-trade deal linking the United States with Mexico and Canada goes way beyond sheer economics and would define U.S. relations with Latin

America for decades to come. "This is an opportunity that opens once in a generation," Mr. Salinas told the Public Broadcasting System's "talking with David Frost" show.

"NAFTA is truly a statement in the way that the U.S. wants to relate to its neighbour to the south."

As for the internal U.S. fight, administration officials said Thursday they are engaged in round-the-clock pitched battles with Congress over NAFTA but insisted the proposed trade deal with Mexico and Canada remains on track.

The administration plans to introduce implementing leg-

islation early next week and is meanwhile lobbying undecided lawmakers, twisting arms and cutting deals.

NAFTA critics say they are within 10 solid votes of killing the treaty in a vote in the House of Representatives set for Nov. 17, while the administration insists support is ever edging its way.

"We have a really good feeling that we will get NAFTA passed. The momentum has shifted," said Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky. "Our strategy is to get NAFTA approved — no ifs."

But what if Congress does in

fact reject the treaty?

"A failure to pass NAFTA is a slap in the face to Latin America... there are indications of political backlash potential," a senior administration official told reporters.

"We're down to hand-to-hand combat in terms of the Hill."

What is more, he said, Europe or Japan will jump into the void and strike lucrative commercial contracts with Mexico.

But another official conceded that all benefits of free trade aside: "The problem now in this hand-to-hand combat... is not the merits. It's how do we get around the opposition."

Japan's unemployment rate rises as economic slide continues

Britain 10.3 per cent and France 10.1 per cent.

Manae Kubota, director-general of the Economic Planning Agency and a member of the government, said it was "extremely worrisome that the unemployment rate is nearing three per cent."

"It has come to a considerably bad situation," said Finance Minister Hiroshi Fujii.

Labour Minister Chikara Sakaguchi announced Friday he had immediately set up a top-level working group from his administration to look into the problem, draw up a series of counter measures by mid-November, and draft a long-term policy by the end of the year.

At the end of September, Japan had 1,720,000 jobless (a 17 per cent rise in one year) out of a workforce of 64.93 million.

For the eighth successive month, job offers fell in September and the economy is only offering 69 jobs for every 100 demands — the lowest level since July 1987.

In March 1991 there were 146 jobs available for every 100 job seekers, but the situation was overturned in the autumn of last year.

The contraction in September covered all sectors of the economy, but notably industry where there were only 30.1

jobs available for every 100 demands.

The Asahi Bank said in a recent report that almost two thirds of the unemployed were not counted in Japan. With the "hidden unemployment" in companies, the real figure was around 6.5 per cent of the workforce, about 2.5 million people.

Defenders of the "jobs for life" tradition in Japan, companies in fact do not lay off staff when the market is slack and continue to pay those — many of them aged 50 and over — for whom they have no work by cutting their salaries or moving them to a subsidiary.

The question being asked today — after three and a half years of economic slowdown and falling profits — is whether company reserves will be adequate to preserve the Japanese social model and prevent more sackings.

At present many firms, in the midst of restructuring, have announced temporary lay-offs (Mazda, Nippon Steel), cut staff (Hitachi) or wages (Toyota, which scrapped its winter bonus).

New jobs and overtime hours are down and the state has stepped up loans in line with its policy of helping companies to preserve jobs.

U.S. dollar likely to strengthen against European currencies

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: The Bundesbank's surprise discount rate cut and firm economic data from the U.S. have lifted the dollar against European currencies. The dollar should continue to strengthen against European currencies in coming quarters as interest rates in Europe decline further. The U.S. and Japan both appear content to let the dollar remain indefinitely in the 100-to-110 range of recent months. But upward pressure on the yen is likely to reemerge next year even if Japan's current account surplus narrows somewhat. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to DM 1.85 while falling to yen 95 over the next 12 months.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar index recorded another solid gain last week. Indeed, the 2.1 per cent advance was the seventh consecutive weekly gain. Over that span, the index has averaged a week over net in excess of 1.5 per cent. As has been the case, the major negative for the dollar is medium term momentum. We have pointed to November as a likely time for this indicator to bottom, and until it does, we are inclined to be a bit cautious. Nonetheless, short term momentum is positive and dollar sentiment toward the European currencies is viewed as constructive. With this in mind, a rally-test sequence is still possible, but the penetration of 94.00 implies that any upcoming weakness is more likely to be a reasonably well-contained reaction rather than a full-blown test. If so, then the 90.29 September low — and possibly even the 91.21 October low — may not need to come under serious pressure. With the upside penetration of 94.00, next resistance is likely the 1993 highs at 95.50-96.00.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar has continued to strengthen against the yen in recent days, rising to the yen 108.6 level as evidence of persistent weakness in Japan's economy contrasts with prospects for U.S. growth of better than 4 per cent in the current quarter. A decline in Japanese short-term interest rates and bond yields in recent weeks may also be prompting foreign investors to hedge their yen positions. One year Euroyen rates have fallen to 2.31 per cent in recent days, or 120 basis points lower than comparable U.S. rates, so foreign investors can profitably hedge yen positions. Recent Japanese economic data continue to point to a "double-dip" recession, with industrial production in August down to a revised 1.2 per cent compared to an initially reported decline of 0.7 per cent. With year-to-year money growth in September remaining anemic at 2.1 per cent, further monetary easing next year looks increasingly likely. Although Japan's global trade surplus appears to have peaked in July, its surplus against the U.S. has risen in recent months. We would not be surprised to see the U.S. seek further yen appreciation next year if Japan's external surplus remains high against the backdrop of a sluggish economy. We maintain our 6- and 12-month forecasts for the yen/USD rate of 100 and 95 respectively. Over the next twelve months, we look for the yen to trade in a broad range of 90-to-110 against the dollar.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 0.9 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week and, in the process, reached a three-month low. Both short and medium term sentiment indicators remain at or near oversold readings. Short term momentum for the yen continues in a downward pattern, as do medium term oscillators. This suggests that the immediate trend for the yen is down.

Putting it all together, we are inclined to think that the currency still has the potential to move toward the 110-112 area. Regardless of whether that level is achieved, upcoming

weakness will be viewed in the context of a still intact long term uptrend. The August high near 100 should continue to provide both chart and psychological resistance for the currency.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The dollar has strengthened to near the DM 1.68 level in recent days in response to a surprise cut in the Bundesbank's key interest rates and indications of firm growth in the U.S. The Bundesbank cut its official discount rate by 50 basis points on Oct. 21 in a surprise move, but cut its repo rate by only 27 basis points to 6.4 per cent.

We do not think the German move signals the beginning of a more aggressive phase of monetary easing, particularly since money growth remains above target while German inflation remained unacceptably high at 3.9 per cent in September. We continue to expect German 3-month interest rates to decline to 4.5 per cent by this time next year from a current level of 6.3 per cent. With interest-rate differentials and growth differentials both likely to favour the dollar in the year ahead, we are maintaining our 12-month target of DM/U.S.\$ 1.85. We continue to look for the dollar to reach DM 1.80 and DM 1.85 over the next six and 12 months respectively.

Technical view: The Deutschemark dropped 3.6 per cent week-to-week versus the U.S. dollar, making it the weakest of the six currencies we regularly monitor. Short term sentiment towards the currency has been overbought (i.e., excessively bullish), while medium term sentiment is neutral as it continues to improve relative to its recent overbought readings. Short term momentum has a downward bias, while medium term oscillators are peaking. It is likely, therefore, that the next short term peak will also coincide with a medium term top. In this regard, a retest of the recent highs near 1.595 DM/U.S.\$ is still possible before the currency would be properly positioned for a resumption of its multi-month downtrend.

However, further weakness through support at 1.693 would probably rule out the test scenario and classify any nearby rally as merely a counter trend reaction within a newly resumed dominant downturn. The mark/yen cross-rate has for the moment stabilised just above the benchmark 62-64 trading range and medium term momentum remains upwardly biased. However, short term oscillators are weak, and a more severe test of support is likely before the medium term strength can reassess itself. The 66.50 level has proven to be good resistance and a decisive rally back through that benchmark would do much to signal further strength toward important chart resistance at 70-72.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The pound inched lower to 1.48 U.S.\$, weighed down by declines in short-term U.K. interest rates. But the pound traded higher against the DM, near DM/2.48, due to speculation that recent German rate cuts may signal easier monetary policy ahead, as doubts emerged over the government's willingness to cut U.K. base rates. We continue to expect the pound to weaken further against the dollar but strengthen against the DM, driven largely by projected changes in short-term interest rate differentials.

We forecast a 45 basis point decline in three-month pound Eurorates over the next twelve months versus a 35 basis point rise in dollar rates and a 190 basis point fall in DM rates. Also underlying the pound's expected 12-month rise to DM/2.61 are our above-consensus forecast of 1994 U.K. growth at 3.2 per cent and our below-consensus projection of no German growth in 1994. Our 12-month forecast for the U.S./\$ is rate is 1.41.

Technical view: The British pound lost 2.6 per cent against

the U.S. dollar last week. As a result, the currency is at the lower end of the June-August 1.47-1.52 U.S.\$; and has effectively created a six-month long trading range between \$1.59 and \$1.46. Both short and medium term sentiment are neutral, having improved from a recent overbought condition; nonetheless, further work is necessary before sentiment becomes oversold.

Despite recent weakness, medium term momentum readings still have an upward bias but are peaking. With this in mind, if \$1.46-\$1.47 is broken, the prospects for a retest of the recent highs will likely have been eliminated. This would necessitate a switch in focus from a possible test of important resistance at \$1.58-\$1.60 to a test of important long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42.

Versus the DM, sterling has been able to maintain its medium term relative strength, although short term oscillators have weakened. This allows for a rally in the cross-rate (i.e., relative sterling weakness) back to 2.50-2.53. However, with weak medium term momentum, any such rally will likely be short lived.

Swiss franc

Fundamental view: The Swiss franc remained steady against the DM at 0.88 SF/DM, but continued to weaken along with other European currencies versus the dollar, trading at SF/U.S.\$ 1.48. We continue to expect franc depreciation to SF/U.S.\$ 1.57 in 12 months, as Swiss interest rates decline further in a low growth environment. Our 12-month forecast for Swiss short-term interest rates is below the consensus; if we are correct, this "news" to the market would further weaken the franc.

Our Swiss GDP outlook is not as bleak as our forecast for Germany, where we expect much larger cuts in short term interest rates, leading us to project franc appreciation to 0.85 SF/DM in 12 months.

Technical view: The Swiss franc lost 3.3 per cent versus the dollar during the week ended Oct. 22. Short term sentiment (put/call ratios) are overbought; while medium term sentiment surveys have improved recently, they are still no better than neutral. The rally to the September highs near 1.39 SF/U.S.\$ implies that the currency has basically been in an uptrend since March. However, with medium term momentum now nearing a peak, any meaningful retest has become less likely. A decline through the 1.487 would likely imply that the rally pattern is complete and the more dominant (from September 1992) downturn was reassessing itself with objectives to (and possibly through) 1.525-1.545. While 1.39 is benchmark resistance, attention will be paid to 1.445-1.428 as a potentially important barrier. The DM cross-rate held above the .88 area last week, providing further evidence that a bottom is building. Both short and medium term momentum are constructive, although the former is overbought. Support is .875-.878. Nearby resistance is above .89.

Canadian dollar

Fundamental view: The Canadian dollar traded recently at C/U.S.\$ 1.32, close to six-year lows. The C\$ strengthened a bit before Monday's election, possibly on the belief that economic constraints would leave any future government with little room for fiscal manoeuvre. Markets may be moving toward our view of only minimal bottom line differences between liberals and conservatives in actual deficit reduction.

We expect the C\$ to gradually take back losses incurred since March as the market is reassured by favourable news regarding the federal deficit and liberal policies in general. Offsetting this positive factor, however, is our view that short term rates will fall by 45 basis points in the near term, a development neither priced into the yield curve nor forecast by the consensus. Our 12-month target is C/U.S.\$ 1.24.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Taurus is accompanied by Venus square Neptune and Uranus making it difficult for us to express our emotions and to become easily self-deceived. There are material and domestic difficulties.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The various obligations you want to get in back of you require more than usual astuteness in handling so approach them with tact and much forethought.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fixed confrontation between you and a stubborn associate can produce only adverse results so make a point to postpone a meeting or be tactful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think over your various tasks and do them in a very self-controlled and conscientious manner or you can have adverse events occur at job for sometime.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You would be wise to keep out of the way of a upset friend or acquaintance who is angry and looking for a whipping boy upon whom to vent off steam.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need today to be as wise as the serpent and as bold as the dove in any worldly or public matter, do nothing that is unprofitable.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are pressured from within and without to get into some advanced activities but you would be unwise to commit yourself, although studying such is good.

anyway as accidents can be all about and avoid being sarcastic with any usual allies.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You would be wise to make no commitments of a financial or practical nature today or tonight for later events could cause you some unhappy loss.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) This is the day when you feel you will not be thwarted in gaining some desire which you would meet with considerable opposition if you make demands.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about what you can do to avoid fussing and fretting over a \$5.00 condition for you to do little about it at the moment.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 20) You would be wise to keep out of the way of a upset friend or acquaintance who is angry and looking for a whipping boy upon whom to vent off steam.

Aquarius: (January 21 to February 19) You need today to be as wise as the serpent and as bold as the dove in any worldly or public matter, do nothing that is unprofitable.

Pisces: (February 20 to March 20) You are pressured from within and without to get into some advanced activities but you would be unwise to commit yourself, although studying such is good.

THE Daily Crossword

by Frances Burton

ACROSS

1 Sewing line
5 Steps to a riverbank, in India

9 Orange

13 "Hawkeye"

14 Actor's plum

15 About

16 Have suspicion

17 Snipe

20 Termites

21 Basketball team

22 Ebb

23 Flock

25 Fruit cake

26 Hobgoblin

30 Catalogues

Gammoh refutes criticism of income tax exemption

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Finance Minister Sam Gammoh Friday rejected criticism of the government's recent decision to exempt Jordanian companies from paying income tax on part of their profits from exports and said every Jordanian exporter stood to gain from the move.

He said the decision had actually ended a conflict over a 1985 law on incentives on exports and the income tax law.

"It is not any different from measures adopted by other countries to encourage exports by offering incentives to export-

ers and improve their balance of payments and foreign exchange earnings," he said.

Mr. Gammoh also defected criticism that the exemption was not extended to exports under official trade agreement and said the overall approach of the government was to encourage Jordanian exports to seek new markets.

"We mean business," Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times. "Our prime objective is to encourage Jordanian companies to seek new export markets."

"Everyone is going to benefit from the move to exempt part of the profits from income

tax," he said, suggesting that a closer look at the measure as "a complete package" would convince critics of the soundness of the measure.

A complete reading of the measure will indicate that it has clarified grey areas in the interpretation of related laws and sets a clear basis for incentives for exporters, he said.

"It is true that some may get less benefits than others, but it is also true that the exemption is now applicable to all private sector exporters who operate on their own without depending on the government to create a market for them," he said.

The minister explained that there was a conflict over a law on incentives for exporters enacted in early 1985 and the income tax law which took effect towards the end of the same year.

The first law, he said, referred to "income from exports" as liable for income tax while the new measure clearly de-

fines it as "profits from exports."

He said the Income Tax Department applied its own definition of "income from exports" and exporters were subsequently paying a higher rate of income tax.

The latest move clearly removed the ambiguity in the law and there can no longer be any "misinterpretation" of the term, he said.

Furthermore, he said, the measure now extends exemption to several categories of companies which used to enjoy no incentives under the earlier arrangement.

As an example, he cited the case of companies which used to export less than 20 per cent of their product and had no incentives. Under the new procedures, they get an exemption of about 14 per cent of their profits from income tax.

"The more you export the more benefits you get," said Mr. Gammoh, pointing out that the rate of exemption goes

up to 70 per cent for companies with a high volume of exports from their production.

Replying to criticism that companies exporting under government-to-government trade agreements were not offered any exemption, the minister pointed out that the bulk of the work in securing such exports was done by the government and, as such, it did not feel obliged to offer any extra incentive to the concerned exporters.

"We want the private sector exporters to work by themselves and explore foreign markets" rather than expecting incentives for exporting to markets predetermined and selected by the government, Mr. Gammoh said.

One of the complaints aired by the exporters in this category is that they have to pay certain fees and charges based on a percentage of the exports orders to various government departments.

Mr. Gammoh did not com-

ment on this aspect of the complaint, but other officials have argued that the prices that companies get for their exports under official trade agreements had a higher mark-up to make up for the lack of outward incentives.

During a visit he paid to the Zarqa Free Zone on Thursday, Mr. Gammoh said first-time exporters would have 30 per cent of their profits exempt from income tax while the extent of such exemption varied depending on the volume of exports in proportion to the overall production of the concerned exporters.

He said potash and phosphate exports as well as exports as settlement of Jordan's foreign debts were not included in the exemption in addition to exports as part of government trade agreements.

The minister expressed hope that exporters benefiting from the exemption would be able to expand their production and offer employment opportuni-

ties as well as reflect the savings in income tax on improving the quality of their exports as well as competitive prices in the international market.

Higher exports mean higher foreign exchange earning and better balance of payment, he noted.

Summing up his visit to the free zone, Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times that he was

satisfied that a series of new measures adopted by the government would encourage investors to use the free zone facilities offered by Jordan.

"From what I heard during my visit, investors have welcomed the new measures which aim at encouraging them

and reduce the formal procedures related to the facilities at the free zone," he added.

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 - ★ Fluorescent lamps and starters
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Fax: 643746



COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME IN MILLION DOLLARS	PREV. OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABAD BANK	240,210	180.00	181.00
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	31,192	4.100	4.100
BANK OF JORDAN	26,522	4.610	4.600
KUWAIT EAST EXCHANGE BANK	13,242	1.980	1.980
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	14,426	1.980	1.980
JORDAN REBATE BANK	22,574	3.240	3.160
JORDAN TRUST & DEPARTMENT BANK	255,215	3.000	3.000
JORDAN TRUST BANK	37,670	4.800	4.800
ORIENT BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	56,095	4.460	4.300
PEACE BANK	12,120	4.100	4.100
PEACE BANK & FINANCE BANK	220,844	1.870	1.790
PEACE BANK FOR INVESTMENT	120,160	2.150	2.150
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	46,739	3.910	3.900
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	710	3.740	3.500
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	18,120	3.100	3.100
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	30,668	4.260	4.000
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	49,589	3.560	3.420
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	11,150	3.100	3.000
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	44,775	3.150	3.000
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	13,655	3.100	2.960
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,238	3.450	3.770
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,184	3.450	3.450
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	388,702	2.380	2.220
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	22,773	3.100	3.100
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	22,773	3.100	3.050
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	7,358	3.100	3.020
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	112,470	3.900	3.900
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	54,200	3.100	3.000
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	7,280	3.150	3.150
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	4,142	3.050	3.050
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	22,579	3.100	2.950
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	178,954	7.840	7.750
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	11,220	11.000	11.000
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	416,563	4.570	4.500
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	34,702	7.400	7.500
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	29,242	3.240	3.150
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	82,753	3.100	3.100
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	9,065	4.000	4.200
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	71,656	22.940	22.500
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	48,820	3.760	3.760
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	12,082	6.410	6.300
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	32,014	16,000	16,350
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	246,651	10,700	10,500
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	3,207	1,700	1,700
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	66,141	8,000	8,100
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	37,643	3.100	3.100
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	374,457	3.720	3.720
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	600	6,120	6,000
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	1,118	3,550	3,500
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	54,738	3,040	3,070
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	28,140	6,400	6,300
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	72,725	3,750	3,700
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	87,543	3,410	3,350
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	77,005	3,400	3,300
PEACE BANK FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT	126,885	5,370	5,350
TOTAL	7,204,223		

Financial Markets		Jordan Times		
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank				
Currency Exchange Rates				
Date:	28/10/1993			
Currency	1 MIL	3 MIL	6 MIL	12 MIL
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.37	3.51	3.50
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.56	5.37	5.31
Deutsche Mark	6.50	6.37	6.12	5.62
Swiss Franc	4.37	4.40	4.18	3.98
French Franc	6.81	6.85	6.25	6.75
Japanese Yen	2.45	2.34	2.25	2.25
European Currency Unit	7.15	7.12	6.84	6.38
<i>Note: For 1000 Dinars = 1.00 US Dollars or equivalent.</i>				
<i>Source: Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin</i>				
Date:	28/10/1993			
Currency	BID	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	0.6990	0.7010		
Sterling Pound	1.0345	1.0397		
Deutsche Mark	0.4156	0.4177		
Swiss Franc	0.4717	0.4741		
French Franc	0.1189	0.1195		
Japanese Yen	0.4458	0.4470		
Dutch Guilder	0.3702	0.3721		
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000		
Italian Lira ²	0.0427	0.0429		
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000		
¹ For 1000 Other Currencies				
Date:	28/10/1993			
Currency	BID	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	1.8500	1.8540		
Sterling Pound	0.0400	0.0411		
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1861	0.1882		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.3150		
Qatari Riyal	0.1890	0.1916		
Egyptian Pound	0.3050	0.3220		
Omani Riyal	1.7770	1.7800		
L.E.D. Dirham	0.1890	0.1918		
Greek Drachma	0.5845	0.5925		
Cypriot Pound	1.3485	1.3925		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	

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Bosnians take refuge with U.N. as more massacre victims found

SARAJEVO (AFP) — More than 100 Muslims sought refuge with U.N. peacekeepers in the central town of Vares Friday as investigators uncovered more bodies from a Croat massacre of Muslims in nearby Stupni Do, U.N. spokesman said.

Ideasbal Van Bieseboeck, a spokesman with the Scandinavian U.N. contingent in Vares, said 110 Muslims had sought shelter at the U.N. camp in the Croat-controlled town 50 kilometres north of Sarajevo.

He said houses were seen burning overnight in two villages around Vares and nearby Stupni Do.

U.N. peacekeepers were also keeping a close watch on two schools in Vares where Croat forces have been holding 200 of the town's Muslims.

EC investigators meanwhile said they had now found a total of 25 bodies in Stupni Do, but about one hundred of the village's 250 Muslim inhabitants were still missing after Saturday's massacre.

They said most of the corps-

ses were so badly-burned they were unidentifiable and some bore signs of torture.

Bosnian Croat Forces (HVO) carried out the massacre at Stupni Do to avenge a Muslim attack on the nearby village of Kupljari on Oct. 21.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), which was forced to wait three days by the HVO before being allowed to enter Stupni to investigate, had discovered 17 corpses by Wednesday.

The United States called Wednesday for Bosnian Croats responsible for the massacre to be tried for war crimes.

"We condemn the massacre of innocent civilians in the strongest terms," the State Department said in a statement, adding that "the war crimes must not and will not go unpunished."

Following U.N. Security Council condemnation of the Stupni massacre, Croatia's government released a statement Friday denouncing the atrocities committed at Stupni

and also called on the perpetrators to be punished, but no blame was laid on the HVO.

Meanwhile, the new head of the U.N. body investigating war crimes in ex-Yugoslavia arrived Thursday to look into reports of atrocities in the region, including rapes, killings and torture.

Sherif Bassiouni was due to focus on trying to unearth evidence from an alleged mass graveyard near Vukovar in northeastern Croatia, an area occupied by Serbian forces.

"This is very important for purely humanitarian reasons," Mr. Bassiouni said after arriving. "There are many families that would like to know (the whereabouts of) the remains of their sons and husbands."

But he said U.N. investigators would also focus on documenting all kinds of atrocities carried out in the chaos of the last 19 months of war in the region.

A baby suffering from a brain disease died in the east Bosnian town of Gorazde

Thursday after a medical evacuation convoy was held up by local Serbs refusing safe passage, Ray Wilkinson, a U.N. High Commission for Refugees official said.

He added that three other children in a "critical state" were unlikely to survive protracted negotiations with Serbs over authorising access along frontlines.

Meanwhile, Friday, France's idea of setting up a "humanitarian route" around Sarajevo to stop the Bosnian capital enduring another winter under siege received Germany's backing, diplomatic sources at an EC summit in Brussels said.

Bosnia-Herzegovina was relatively calm Thursday except in Sarajevo, Mostar in the south and Gornji Vakuf in the southwest. UNPROFOR spokesman here said.

Clashes also occurred between the Bosnian army and Muslim separatists at Skokov, seven kilometres north of Cazin in the breakaway enclave of Bihać, they said.



A man holds bread in a store in Moscow following the announcement that prices of bread would be freed by the end of the week (AFP photo)

Minister warns of plans to destabilise Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin warned that unnamed elements were plotting to "destabilise" Russia on the Nov. 7 anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution and said unauthorised rallies that day would be broken up.

"Necessary measures will be taken against all those who threaten public security by holding unauthorised demonstrations" to mark the anniversary, Mr. Yerin was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying late Thursday.

He said that there were plans afoot "to destabilise the situation in Russia" on Nov. 7, which remains a national holiday in commemoration of the Bolsheviks' seizure of power in 1917.

Pro-Communist and ultra-nationalist parties which have organised Nov. 7 rallies for the last two years were dissolved after Russia's political crisis in October.

All demonstrations now need prior authorisation from Moscow's authorities.

During the 75th anniversary

of the revolution last year, some 10,000 pro-Communists rallied outside the Kremlin.

Meanwhile, strains between Russia's presidency and government persisted Friday as a close aide to President Boris Yeltsin admitted there was a lack of "unity" between the two sides but not a "schism."

The two branches clashed Wednesday when Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the government was taking over the media facilities and access previously reserved for the now-dissolved parliament.

Mr. Chernomyrdin specifically said the government wanted to take over control of the parliament's daily one-hour radio and television programme to "explain the actions of the government."

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Viacheslav Rutsikov condemned Mr. Chernomyrdin's "seizure" of air-time and the "concentration of information services" and accused the government of creating a "Ministry of Propaganda."

Meanwhile, four people were wounded, one of them seriously ill, when a package ex-

ploded Friday in Moscow's central post office, the radio station Moscow Echoes said.

It blew up at 11:20 a.m. (0820 GMT) at a sorting station as four people were opening unclaimed packages.

Investigators from the Security Ministry, the former KGB, were investigating but had not yet determined if the package was a booby trap or had been set off accidentally.

In a separate development, a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has visited 19 prisoners detained in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison, where the leaders of this month's coup are being held.

ITAR-TASS reported Thursday night that former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi — one of the revolt's leaders — had been taken the previous night with high blood pressure to a secure hospital from his prison cell.

A security ministry spokesman in Moscow declined to confirm the news agency report, saying Rutskoi was not seriously ill.

Moscow mayor calls for return of ballerina's ashes

MOSCOW (AP) — Moscow's mayor has endorsed a plan to remove the remains of ballerina Anna Pavlova from a London crematorium and bring them back to Russia for burial, the ITAR-TASS news agency said Wednesday. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov ordered subordinates to arrange for the marble urn containing Pavlova's ashes to be taken from London to Moscow for burial at the Novodevichy Monastery Cemetery. "This action may be one more important step toward our country's cultural and spiritual revival," Mr. Luzhkov was quoted as saying.

ITAR-TASS said Mr. Luzhkov acted in response to an appeal from Moscow's artistic community. In London, a director of the company that operates Golders Green Crematorium, where Pavlova's remains are kept, said they were unaware of any plans to return the urn to Russia. "We have never received any request from anybody, formally, for this," Mr. Harvey Thomas said. Pavlova made her debut in St. Petersburg in 1899. She later joined the Diaghilev Ballet in Paris before settling in London and forming her own small ballet company. She died at the age of 50 in 1931 during a visit to the Hague. Her husband, Victor Dandré, who died in 1944, said in his will that Pavlova wanted to be buried in Russia "when the times are good and kind." Thomas said the crematorium trustees met six months ago and discussed the issue of returning Pavlova's remains to Russia, but only if her ashes would be secure. They decided that "this really was not an appropriate time to consider such a request, given the whole question of stability in Russia," he said.

Bag of bones baffles Australian police

SYDNEY (R) — Australian police Friday appealed for help in finding the owner of a suitcase full of human bones discovered on the verandah of a Sydney church. The suitcase, found by an employee at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral last month, contained bones wrapped in brown paper and a 55-year-old copy of the Irish Times. An enclosed handwritten note read: "Please take care of this, found it in the old house. Please put to rest properly, as strange things have started to happen to my health." Police, meanwhile, four people were wounded, one of them seriously ill, when a package ex-

ploded Friday in Moscow's central post office, the radio station Moscow Echoes said.

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A security ministry spokesman in Moscow declined to confirm the news agency report, saying Rutskoi was not seriously ill.

Georgian forces regain lost ground from rebels

TBILISI (R) — Georgia said Friday its troops had won back lost ground from rebels in the west, and diplomats said the civil war in the former Soviet republic looked headed towards a final showdown.

Officials said government forces retook the town of Khobi late Thursday after being forced to withdraw under a barrage of mortars and "Grad" missiles from the rebel side.

They said this meant that the rebels, fighting to restore ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia to power, were once again reduced to control of a single western stronghold, Zugdidi.

"They're at their last gasp, their last concentration of forces," Tengiz Kitovani, commander of the National Guard, said. "But they have no chance. They would do better to surrender and those who are still alive could then remain alive."

Mr. Kitovani told Reuters government forces planned to take Zugdidi and then press on to Abkhazia, the Black Sea province.

Georgian forces retreated ignominiously last month from Abkhazia after being routed by separatists in another of Georgia's bloody and long-running conflicts.

"They (government forces) will definitely go there. They (Abkhazian rebels) must allow back 300,000 refugees whom we aren't capable of housing and feeding," he said.

A diplomat in the Georgian installed government.

United Nations-organised elections in May gave a narrow victory to the Royalists who then formed a coalition government with their old enemies, the CPP. The radical Kmer Rouge faction boycotted the polls and has no role in the new administration.

The new ministers inherit an economy devastated by decades of war and with a depleted Kmer Rouge army holding out in border areas.

The Royalists and CPP share the powerful defence and interior ministries. Finance goes to reform-minded Royalist, Sam Rainey.

There is no change in foreign affairs, with Prince Norodom Sivridja as minister. His deputy is the highly regarded Uch Kim An, Australian-educated former advisor of Hun Sen.

The one surprise was the appointment of Ieng Mouly from the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) to the sought after position of information minister.

The BLDP is the political wing of the fractured Kmer Peoples' National Liberation Front and with 10 seats is a minor coalition partner.

Mr. Hosokawa told fellow coalition chiefs at a breakfast meeting Friday he would invite heads of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Communists to an all-party summit next week in an effort to meet the deadline.

Political analysts said his talk of a summit meant he planned to seek legislative passage through compromise rather than jeopardise the entire package by railroading it through.

Technically, Mr. Hosokawa could extend the current 90-day session, but that would seriously affect year-end ministerial business notably finalisation of the 1994/95 budget by Dec. 31.

"The fact that we are holding this breakfast meeting is a sign of our determination to get the political reform bills enacted this year," said Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata.

2 more killed before talks on N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Suspected Protestant extremists gunned down two Catholic brothers near Belfast, dragging out a wave of remorseless killings and adding extra urgency to key Anglo-Irish talks Friday.

The British and Irish prime ministers, John Major and Albert Reynolds, were to meet in Brussels to discuss new Dublin peace proposals which have brought the only ray of hope to Northern Ireland in a week in which 17 people have died.

The brothers, 18 and 22, were killed watching television Thursday in their cottage in Bleary, a hamlet some 25 miles (40 kilometres) southwest of Belfast.

Police said at least two masked men walked in through an open door, past the victims' 11-year-old sister in the kitchen, and shot the brothers dead in the living room before walk-

Africans ready to send military force to Burundi

KIGALI, Rwanda (R) — Neighboring Central African states said Friday they were ready to send troops to protect the government in Burundi, grappling with ethnic killings after a failed coup.

"There is urgent need of a military force to help cut tribal killings in the Burundi countryside and restore trust and security to that country," the Prime Minister of Rwanda, Zaire and Tanzania said in a communiqué after a summit in Kigali.

"Africans must make a concrete gesture to stop massacres of innocent Burundi populations and help find a lasting solution to the tribal violence there," it added.

The statement said the states "as neighbours, want to help in this. But this must be at the behest of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and in consultation with the Burundi government."

The OAU's Tanzanian secretary-general signalled at the meeting the OAU would endorse the mission. He said he planned consultations with U.N. Secretary-General Bout-

ros Ghali on sending in the force "as soon as it is assembled."

Burundi's Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi has warned that Burundi could collapse as a nation unless the international community rushed in troops to end tribal violence sweeping the country after the failed coup.

Ms. Kinigi, a survivor of the bloody coup, told Radio France International late Thursday that her government had taken charge of the Central African nation but army troops in some areas were retreating.

She said the coup, which was staged last Thursday but crumbled Monday after Burundi's army generals overthrew the plotters and arrested 10 of them, was "in a way still going on."

President Melchior Ndayave, Burundi's first elected head of state, and six of his 19 cabinet ministers were shot dead during the coup staged by elements of the armed forces, dominated by the minority Tutsi tribe.

Political sources said Mr. De Klerk would want to discuss with the Freedom Alliance options arising from the government's talks with the ANC.

"In consultation with the ANC and others, we have come to compromises which we believe will address the problems that Freedom Alliance has put on the table," a government source said.

But a source involved in the talks told Reuters: "It is going to require the alliance to make compromises of its own. This will not be a unilateral cave-in by the government and the ANC."

Mr. Ramaphosa told the businessmen one problem with dealing with the right wing was the lack of concrete proposals from the alliance.

"We have been engaged in a shadow-boxing type of process without knowing what they want," he said.

White rightists are demanding self-rule, while black con-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Karabakh wants independence recognised

STEP-ANAKERT, Nagorno-Karabakh (AFP) — Baku must recognise the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh if it wants to recover Azerbaijan regions on the Iranian border lost over the past few days, the parliamentary speaker from the separatist region Karen Baburian told AFP. "We are ready to return the seized territories (in southwest Azerbaijan), at any time on the sole condition that Nagorno-Karabakh is recognised as an independent republic."

Nigeria hijack drama ends

NAIMEY (R) — Hostages aboard a Nigerian plane hijacked to Niger prayed and stripped to their underwear in searing heat, awaiting death until commandos freed them. "We prayed to God, Muslim and Christians. We thought we were going to die," said Ibrahim Jikamshi. "You can't imagine what it's like when you think you are just flying to Abuja to have some food with your family and this happens." Hijackers seized the domestic Nigeria Airways flight from Lagos to the capital Abuja Monday and demanded to fly to Frankfurt. They landed in Nigeria's northern neighbour Niger after Chad refused them permission to refuel. Officials, passengers and crew agreed the hijackers, who they said were aged between 20 and 25, were serious in their threat to set fire to the Airbus A310 if their political demands were not met by Thursday morning. The hijacking ended just after midnight Wednesday when an elite force of Niger police stormed the plane.

German manager detained in blood row

BONN (R) — German police have detained the manager of a pharmaceutical firm accused of having failed to ensure blood products were free of HIV, the AIDS virus, investigators said Friday. Koblenz Prosecutor Norbert Weiss said the UB-Plasma executive and a co-worker were detained Thursday night for questioning on suspicions of violating laws on the handling of pharmaceutical products. Police Thursday raided and shut down the Koblenz firm, which was said to have tested only 2,500 batches out of some 7,000 blood products delivered to 74 hospitals in Germany and one in Austria. Before his detention, the manager told the Express newspaper that he had not been aware of any wrongdoing in his company. He was quoted as saying it was possible that blood batches had been mixed up but that he would never have approved of it.

China still claims satellite is in orbit

BEIJING (AP) — What exactly was it that plummeted into the Pacific Ocean Thursday? The U.S. Space Command insists a two-ton chunk of an out-of-control Chinese research satellite plummeted through the atmosphere and splashed down about 14,000 miles (1,600 kilometres) west of Peru. But on Friday, China continued to insist that the satellite is still in orbit and won't fall to earth for six months. "It's definitely still up in the sky," said a spokesman at the Aerospace Ministry who identified himself by the surname Sun. "We can see it very clearly" from an observation station, he said. When asked to respond to the space command report, Mr. Sun said, "I think it

Sports

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vatanen wins Hong Kong-Beljing Rally

BELJING (R) — Former world champion Ari Vatanen of Finland Friday scored a "come-from-behind" victory in the Hong Kong to Beijing Motor Rally, with fellow Subaru professionals taking second and third places. Vatanen, who took the lead in Thursday's penultimate section after trailing most of the 3,865-kilometre rally, roared up to the Great Wall outside Beijing in a winning time of five hours 13 minutes 40 seconds. "I'm very glad to win," Vatanen said after parading with the other finishers into central Tiananmen Square past huge crowds of mystified Chinese. "The route was not very tough, but the stops were very long. After my Subaru Legacy got problems and lost five seconds on the second leg, I knew I had to try very hard to regain the lead." But that made the victory taste sweeter," the 41-year-old winner said, sipping a victory glass of milk as others uncorked champagne. Vatanen's professional Subaru teammates Colin McRae of Scotland and Possum Bourne of New Zealand took second and third places respectively.

Limoges beaten by Barcelona

LONDON (R) — Champions Limoges started the defence of their European Champion Clubs' basketball title inauspiciously Thursday when they lost their opening game of the semifinal series. The French were tied 71-71 with in-form Barcelona at the end of normal time in Spain but finally succumbed 86-76. The Spaniards had let a nine-point early lead slip away at halftime as Limoges led 34-33. Richard Dacoury, at 34 the oldest player on the court, then joined forces with Michael Young to widen the gap for Limoges in the opening minutes of the second half. But Barcelona's powerful response came courtesy of Andres Jimenez who scored seven times in a row to help level matters and in extra time they found more than the French. Federic Roberts also sparked for Barcelona with 25 points. Predictably, top scorers for the titleholders were the two Youngs, Michael with 34 and Danny on 13.

Turkey beat Poland 2-1

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey registered a rare victory beating Poland 2-1 to significantly raise Dutch beliefs that they will be heading for next year's World Cup finals at England's expense. Turkey, with only a victory over whipping boys San Marino in earlier World Cup Group 2 qualifiers, came from behind to score their first victory over the Poles since 1971. Goals by Hakan Sukur in the 57th minute and Bulent Uygur in the 72nd wiped out the 16th-minute lead Wojciech Kowalczyk gave Poland. The result will convince the Dutch that they can achieve the point they need from their visit to Poland in their last World Cup qualifier next month to guarantee a place in the U.S.A.'s '94 finals. England need Poland to beat the Netherlands while putting at least seven goals past San Marino to qualify ahead of the Dutch along with group winners Norway.

Jet lag sets in for Magic, Hawks

LONDON (AP) — Mookie Blaylock wasn't in the mood to shoot hoops. The Atlanta Hawks guard had just made his first trip across the Atlantic Ocean. He said little sleep on the team's all-night flight, was whisked by bus to the hotel to drop off his bags, then back out to a gymnasium in west London. And now he had to practice. "You'll probably see some feet walking in mud today," Blaylock said. "Probably a little heavy. Hopefully we can get motivated." Blaylock and the Hawks play the Orlando Magic in a pair of exhibition games at Wembley Arena this weekend; the first time, two NBA teams have played each other in Europe. Both clubs labored through light workouts after arriving in town early Thursday. When it came time to meet the press, the players were more than happy to collapse in their chairs as a horde of British reporters clustered around the one star they all knew — Orlando centre Shaquille O'Neal.

Russia has until Monday to pay fine

MOSCOW (R) — The International Weightlifting Federation has given Russia until Monday to pay a \$50,000 fine or face a year-long ban from competition because of a doping scandal, the Russian federation chief said Friday. Viktor Polyakov told Reuters his federation had already found \$20,000 and would be asking the Russian Olympic Committee (NOC) to help out. But judging from a report in the daily Sovietsky Sport newspaper, the NOC is not keen to be linked with the fund-raising effort to ensure Russia, one of the top weightlifting countries, attends next month's World Championships. "We only want clean medals," Friday's edition of the daily quoted NOC President Vitaly Smirnov as saying. Mr. Polyakov said this was just an opening gambit and he was confident of NOC support. The NOC could not be reached for comment.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH
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BREAKING THE DEFENDERS' HEARTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

* A K J 8 7 6

✓ 6 2

0 Q J 3

* J 2

WEST

* Q 9 8

* 10 2

✓ 9

0 Q J 7 3

* 10 9 5

* 6 4 2

* K 9 7 5 4 3

* A Q 10 6

SOUTH

* 5 4

* V A K 10 8 5 4

* Q A K 8 7

* 6 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 V Pass 1 * Pass

3 V Pass 4 0 Pass

5 0 Pass 6 V Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦.

You can afford to bid aggressively

only if you, or partner, have the skill

to play the spots off the cards. To

illustrate what we mean, consider this hand from the Fall North

American Championships in Orlando, Fla.

Most players who know would have been content to rebid spades or raise one heart to four with the North

hand. Instead, North chose to show the diamond fragment and then, with trusting faith in partner's ability, pressed on to slam when South raised diamonds.

West led a club and South, Kay Lattimore of West Palm Beach, Fla., would have been happy to sell her contract for a mess of potage. The defenders gave declarer some aid by winning the ace of clubs and, during the course of the hand, ruffed in hearts, cashed in to the diamond queen and won a trump, inserting the ten when East followed low, which was the technically correct play. West's nine was both a relief and a warning.

Declarer re-entered dummy with the ace of spades for another heart lead, capturing East's jack with the king. A spade to the ace and a spade ruff established three spade winners on the table and declarer was now ready to pull off a serendipitous trump coup.

With the ace-eight of hearts

poised over East's queen-seven, declarer entered dummy with the jack of diamonds and started running spades. No matter whether East chose to ruff or not, or when, the defenders were getting no more tricks.

You can afford to bid aggressively

only if you, or partner, have the skill

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S. Arabia, S. Korea qualify for World Cup finals

Doha (Agencies) — Asia's soccer giant, South Korea, and the world's top oil producer, Saudi Arabia, qualified for the 1994 World Cup and pledged to give powerhouses Europe and Latin America some tough new competition.

"Time has come to show that Asian nations can do well!" South Korean coach Kim Ho said Thursday. "From now on we are exactly going to do that."

Since its first World Cup bid in 1954 in Switzerland ended in humiliating defeats, South Korea has continued its buildup, making it one of Asia's leaders.

Confidence increased after South Korea represented Asia in the World Cup championships in 1986 and again in 1990.

But since 1990, many Korean officials have turned to professional baseball, making it the nation's most popular sport.

Soccer officials hope South Korea's third straight World Cup appearance will boost their efforts to rekindle a soccer boom.

"We go to America with new talent, new tactics — a blend of Asian, Latin American and European football," said an elated Saudi Arabian coach Mohammad Al Khrais.

Asia, with 56 per cent of the world's population, has shown little bright soccer talent and Asian nations have not advanced far in the World Cup.

In Doha, capital of the tiny state of Qatar, the last Asian qualification day was not without drama.

Japan, a favourite to make it to the world's best soccer show, fell short by allowing a goal with seconds left in its

game against Iraq. As Swiss referee Serge Muhenthaler blew the final whistle, some Japanese players and about a 1,000 fans started weeping hysterically. Others were stunned into silence. Tears rolled down the eyes of Kazuyoshi Miura, Japan's best player.

Japan's 2-2 tie with Iraq dropped the Japanese into third place below South Korea, Iraq, Iran and North Korea, three teams the United States hoped would not qualify for the 24-team tournament next summer, finished fourth, fifth and sixth.

Saudi Arabia (2-0-3) beat Iran 4-3 to finish with seven points and earn its first trip to the finals.

"First thing I did was look at heaven and I thanked Allah," said Saudi coach Al Khrais. "Now we can say, 'here we come, America.'"

South Korea (2-1-2) beat Peninsula rival North Korea 3-0 and qualified for the finals for the third straight time.

South Korea scored nine goals and gave up four, while Japan (2-1-2) scored seven and gave up four.

"I could not speak for several minutes, so high was my emotion," said Kim, the South Korean coach, who had come under severe criticism at home for losing to Japan in an earlier game.

Japan, which has never qualified for the World Cup but is the favourite to play host to the tournament in 2002, lost when Iraqi Air Force technician Jaffar Omran scored the equalizer.

The results probably set off a huge sigh of relief at World Cup USA Headquarters in Los Angeles. There had been con-

cern whether the U.S. government would issue the necessary visas if either Iraq, Iran or North Korea had qualified.

Iraq is under United Nations sanctions, Iran is a bitter U.S. foe and North Korea has faced with the American government over nuclear arms.

Despite assurances from the Reagan administration in 1988 that the U.S. would impose no hindrance to qualifying teams, State Department officials were quoted this week as saying they could not guarantee visas to Iraq.

Iraq gained a public relations windfall by holding Japan to a 2-2 draw on the final day of Asian qualifying competition.

The Iraqi embassy in Seoul said it was swamped Friday with telephone calls from South Korean soccer fans saying "thank you" and applauding the fighting spirit of Iraqi soccer players.

Embassy officials said they will contribute to improved relations between Iraq and South Korea, which remain estranged because of the Gulf war.

During the war, South Korea sided with the United States in condemning Iraq and dispatched military units to join the allied forces.

South Korea; confirming its recently shaky reputation as Asia's soccer giant, was in party mood Friday after clinching the third successive berth in the World Cup finals in nail-biting fashion.

The trip to next year's finals in the United States was made all the sweeter for being at the expense of bitter rival Japan, which has been striving to capture the mantle of Asia's pre-

mier soccer nation from South Korea.

"Heaven is on our side," blared Friday's Sports Chosun tabloid.

"It was the most heart-stopping moment in my life. I am mad with joy. We must thank Iraq for our team's victory," a 30-year-old avid soccer fan said.

"I was just about to turn off the television and go to bed in despair. But there was a miracle and God saved us from hell," he said. "Mansoor (long live) Korea and Iraq."

Sepp Blatter, said during a visit here that Japan were almost half way on the road to staging the finals and would be difficult to catch.

But Japan's failure to book a place in the finals has shifted the focus.

"We will work hard to bring the 2002 World Cup to Korea," said Chung Mong-Joon, president of the South Korea Football Association.

"We will tell people we have qualified for the World Cup three times consecutively and four times all Japan have never been there."

Mr. Chung, who also heads the heavy industry division of South Korean conglomerate of Hyundai, added that a joint bid with North Korea was a possibility.

Kristiansen thinks Chinese will slash marathon record

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (R) — Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen believes one of China's elite women-distance runners will slash her world marathon best by six minutes in Sunday's World Cup.

Kristiansen set the present mark of two hours 21 minutes six seconds in the 1985 London marathon and only the 1984 Olympic champion Joan Benoit has subsequently come within a minute of that time.

But by midday Sunday here Kristiansen fully expects the record to belong to any one of five Chinese women.

"I think the record will be broken by the Chinese," she said this week.

"I think it will be two hours 15 minutes. I won't be surprised if something like that happens."

In five days last month the Chinese revolutionised women's distance running fol-

lowing their three track golds at the Stuttgart World Championships.

At an epochal national championships in Beijing's Workers' Stadium, Wang Junxia took nearly 42 seconds off Kristiansen's world 10,000 record then went on to break the world 3,000 mark by more than 15 seconds. In the meantime Qu Yunxia broke the world 1,500 record by just over two seconds.

Both Wang and Qu will run here along with Zhang Linli, Zhang Liqiong and Ma Liyan — bringing together the five fastest women in history over 3,000 metres.

Wang and Qu each passed drug tests in Stuttgart and again at the National Championships and their world records have been ratified. Ma

has been quoted as saying that in 24 years of running and teaching he has never even seen a drug.

Kristiansen has her doubts and says her body could not handle the amount of kilometres covered by the Chinese.

"I'm not sure they use normal ways of training," she said. "I'm afraid that what they're using is not allowed."

"The 10,000 record was there to be broken — but by 40 seconds!"

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EC leaders pledge fight for jobs, concern for people

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) leaders pledged Friday to relaunch their 12-nation bloc, promising to fight unemployment, work towards a single currency and bring Europe closer to its sceptical citizens.

They also took the first steps towards creating a common foreign policy with provisional agreements to work for peace and stability in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa and the former Yugoslavia.

The leaders were also poised to agree a controversial package of sites for EC agencies and looked likely to hand the coveted European Monetary Institute (EMI), the embryonic EC central bank, to Germany.

Complete agreement was being held up by Spain, which was unhappy with what it has been offered.

A draft declaration from a special summit, called to mark the coming into force on Monday of the Maastricht Treaty on European union, admits that the community has become distant from its citizens.

"There are large numbers of them for whom Europe seems far away, anonymous and uninteresting," a French-language version of the text says. "We want a Europe that is close to its citizens, limiting its interference to cases where it is necessary for the pursuit of common interests," it adds.

The draft reflects the leaders' public statements that it was time to do something to put the community back on track amid a grinding recession and rising unemployment.

"We have to show our peoples that we are collectively addressing their needs," British Prime Minister John Major told his colleagues. And their highest need is to see all Europe moving out of recession, all Europe creating new jobs."

The leaders said they were determined to put the Maas-

tricht Treaty into practice. The draft conclusion reaffirmed the EC's goals for a single currency by the end of the century.

It made no mention, however, of 1997 as the possible date for a single currency — a tacit admission that the European Community's economic problems and monetary turmoil have made that target unreachable.

Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen urged the assembled leaders to show that the treaty was relevant to the EC's citizens. He found proof in the streets outside.

"The demonstrations we see in Brussels today are a sign that European politicians must take clear decisions," Mr. Rasmussen told reporters.

Belgium's transport system was crippled by a strike on Friday, while tens of thousands of unionists demonstrated against government proposals to end Belgium's economic crisis.

The EC leaders were also set to approve a series of modest steps to stimulate growth, to be followed by more concrete proposals at a regularly scheduled summit in December.

These include making more types of growth- and job-creating projects eligible for cash from an eight billion European currency unit (\$9.2 billion) lending fund set up by the EC last year. They will also agree to provide more subsidised loans for small businesses, he said.

Despite the attempts of most leaders to show optimism, French President Francois Mitterrand offered a sobering reminder about some of the difficulties facing the continent.

"We are confronted by ethnic massacres which could turn into regional wars. There is a serious risk of a European conflict at the beginning of the next century," his spokesman quoted him as saying. "There is reality and reality tempers my optimism."

The leaders said they were determined to put the Maas-

Christopher delays Mideast mission

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to delay a proposed Mideast trip until after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin meets President Bill Clinton in Washington, probably in mid-November. U.S. officials and diplomats said Thursday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that while the date is not yet firm, efforts were being made to arrange talks at the White House between Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton on Nov. 12.

Mr. Christopher, who returned from Russia and other former Soviet republics Thursday night, was contemplating a trip to the Middle East late next week.

But the sources said it now looked like he might journey to the region later in November or in early December.

The goal is to try to convene a new round of Mideast peace talks in early December, one diplomatic source told Reuters.

There has been some confusion about the future of the talks since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) used a secret channel to negotiate their own agreement, which was signed in Washington Sept. 13.

Syria Wednesday renewed a threat to boycott the next round of Middle East peace talks with Israel, saying it was strong enough to avoid giving any concessions.

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told a seminar for leaders of the ruling Baath Party that co-sponsors Washington and Moscow should not issue invitations to a 13th round of talks until Israel committed itself to withdraw fully from the occupied Golan Heights.

State Department spokesman David Johnson, asked about Mr. Christopher's travel plans, told reporters that "at the appropriate time in the not too distant future some determination on his travel plans will be made."

He noted that "there may be some bilateral meetings in Washington in the next short while."

U.S. special Mideast coordinator Dennis Ross recently returned from the region and apparently found the time was not quite ripe for a visit by Mr. Christopher.

In a related matter, the United States Thursday reasserted its demand that an Arab boycott of Israel be lifted.

In an interview in Thursday's editions of the Wall Street Journal, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak suggested the United States refrain from pressing Arab states too hard to end the boycott, saying such pressure could cause a public backlash that would complicate the peace effort.

Asked about that, the State Department said in a statement "we remain firmly committed to achieving an end to the boycott and are pressing publicly and in diplomatic channels for progress towards that goal."

Mr. Peffer testified that a second van just like the van authorities suspect was used in the attack was taken apart to compare to the twisted, broken, charred remains from the bombing.

"So that henceforth we can expect to hear from witnesses who deal with defendants or have something directly to do with these defendants one way or the other?" asked the judge.

"That's correct, Your Honour," Mr. Childers answered.

"You will start hearing the defendant's names on Monday."

Mr. Peffer testified that a second van just like the van authorities suspect was used in the attack was taken apart to compare to the twisted, broken, charred remains from the bombing.

"While it is true the boycott

is not strictly observed by all

Arab League countries, it does

continue to be an obstacle to

peace and economic cooperation in the region," it added.

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DEMOLITION: Palestinian children carry what was left of their belongings after the family house was demolished by the Israeli army in the Nesseirat refugee camp Friday. The army

bombed the house of a wanted Palestinian activist Atta Abu Habeza (32) and arrested him with five other members of his family after they found weapons in the place (AFP photo)

U.S. says Haitian military won battle, will lose war

Mr. Aristide had said that if they resigned, he would summon the legislature to ratify an amnesty for the military.

U.N. envoy Dante Caputo also expressed disagreement with the demand. The United States and the United Nations are Mr. Aristide's most powerful backers.

The military may have won a battle this time, but they haven't won the war," said U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager, acknowledging that Mr. Aristide would not return to Haiti on Saturday as required by an accord signed in July by Mr. Aristide and Haitian army chief, General Raoul Cedras.

Mr. Schrager also indicated that the United States was not entirely comfortable with Mr. Aristide's demand that all top-ranking military officers resign, rather than just Gen. Cedras and Port-au-Prince police chief Joseph-Michel Francois as called for by the Governors Island accord.

Gen. Cedras also rejected the expanded demand for resignations, saying it "violated" the accord and Haiti's constitution.

Mr. Schrager agreed, saying the demand went beyond the Governors Island agreement."

Asked about Mr. Aristide's speech to the United Nations, Mr. Schrager also distanced himself from Mr. Aristide's request for a "total and complete" blockade of Haiti to enforce a tougher embargo.

The United Nations is considering adding all non-humanitarian goods to a fuel and arms embargo in place

since Oct. 19.

Mr. Aristide has already issued an amnesty for Gen. Cedras and other military leaders involved in the 1991 coup that ended his seven months in office.

Also, Friday, the Haitian army denied allegations made in a U.S. Senate report that senior officials were heavily involved in drug trafficking.

The report quoted intelligence sources as directly linking police chief Francois to an estimated \$100 million a year in bribes paid for drug-trafficking and identified him as key government figure in the drug trade.

Fearing a shortage of fuel, army-backed political groups opposed to Mr. Aristide called a nationwide strike to press the government to seize foreign-owned gas depots. Most businesses were closed and traffic was sparse Friday.

Court ruling seen as victory for campaign, democracy

(Continued from page 1) was perfect," a former official said. "The court's swift handling of the case will also send the proper message to Jordaniens."

In pre-democracy times, the judicial authority had a limited role and was intimidated by the executive authority whose administrative rulings were, in most cases, protected by the law," the well-informed former official explained.

When the Higher Court of Justice law was debated by the 11th Parliament, "this protection was removed from the executive authority and its decisions became open to appeal in a court of law."

Asked about that, the State Department said in a statement "we remain firmly committed to achieving an end to the boycott and are pressing publicly and in diplomatic channels for progress towards that goal."

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taking such measures as the ban on public rallies and had nearly lost faith in campaigning freely have been given a shot in the arm with this ruling," an analyst said.

But the analysts point out that the political weight of the ruling will largely benefit the concept of "institutions using democracy" in the country rather than serve the rating of one single political party, stability and public safety."

In fact, the government's goodwill and acceptance of the court's decision will go a long way in giving it a credible image of courageousness in applying the law even if it does not appear to be in its favour.

The government's immediate positive reaction to the court's ruling shows, according to most analysts, that the executive authority is willing to limit its strength in the next Parliament.

Islamists stage first election rally

(Continued from page 1) for what he claimed was a plan to exhume the body of Palestinian war hero Izzeddin Al Qassam, after whom the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas is named. "The exhumation and the insistence to keep crippled Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in prison despite the release of other Palestinians political prisoners is not comprehensible," Mr. Keilani said.

"People who felt intimidated by the government for

Mr. Keilani attacked Israel

in the DPP, outranked Mr. Haddadin.

In Irbid, Jamil Nimir from the DPP is seeking the district's sole Christian seat on behalf of the Progressive List.

In four other districts where leftists are believed to have a strong following, either the DPP or the JDPP candidate withdrew from the race to give their coalition partners a chance to gain a seat in Parliament.

Political commentators believe the merger is important, if only because it was the first merger on any level between the new political parties in the Kingdom. The majority of the parties are leftist.

Likely to depend on tribal and regional ties, most candidates in this election are refusing to make any predictions as to the outcome of the electoral race.

"The field is wide open," said Saber Aref of the JDPP. "We are hoping that by running a joint list we will have a fighting chance at the polls. But we are not willing to predict anything."

Of the official Progressive List of six, two are running in the same district but for different seats.

Former Deputy Bassam

Haddadin, a DPP member, is running for the Christian seat in Zarqa while JDPP member Tarek Hajawi is running for one of the Muslim seats in the same district.

In the First District of Amman and in Balqa's JDPP members Samih Khalil and Hussein Abu Rumman withdrew from the race in favour of Mr. Khawaja and Dr. Said Diab. Observers believe that the candidates that withdrew had better chances of winning than those who are running.

JDPP candidate Issam Haddadin withdrew in favour of Salem Nahas in Madaba. Again local observers in Madaba believe that Mr. Haddadin, who has both leftist and tribal backing, would be a more likely winner than Mr. Nahas. But Mr. Nahas, a veteran leftist politician with

It is still unknown if the

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